

1 Samuel 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, I-chabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

Analysis

And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, I-chabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD'S priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone.

The genealogy of Ahijah connects back to Eli's doomed house - he is 'I-chabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli.' The ephod he wears represents legitimate priestly access to divine guidance through Urim and Thummim. Yet Saul's consultation of this priest will prove problematic (verses 18-19). The notation that 'the people knew not that Jonathan was gone' emphasizes the secret, individual nature of Jonathan's faith venture. Corporate Israel was unaware of the deliverance being initiated.

Historical Context

Ahijah's connection to Eli's house is significant given God's judgment on that family (1 Samuel 2:27-36). The ephod contained the Urim and Thummim, used for obtaining divine guidance through yes/no questions. Saul's relationship with this priestly line would prove increasingly problematic.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes use individuals acting alone to deliver the larger community?
2. What does Jonathan's secrecy suggest about his assessment of his father's spiritual state?

Interlinear Text

פִּנְהָס בֶּן אַיָּקָב וְדָבָר אֶחָת וְבָנָי הַנְּבִיא
And Ahiah the son of Ahitub brother Ichabod's the son of Phinehas
H281 H1121 H285 H251 H350 H1121 H6372

אֶפְרַיִם בְּשִׁלּוֹם נִשְׁאָר יְהוָה הַלְּבָנִי כִּי עַל
the son of Eli priest the LORD'S in Shiloh wearing an ephod
H1121 H5941 H3548 H3068 H7887 H5375 H646

וְיָנָתָן: לֹא יָדַע כִּי הַלְּבָנִי
And the people knew was gone not that Jonathan
H5971 H3808 H3045 H3588 H1980 H3129

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 22:20 (Parallel theme): And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David.

1 Samuel 2:28 (Parallel theme): And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

1 Samuel 4:21 (Parallel theme): And she named the child I-chabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father in law and her husband.

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